

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 231

By Favors

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate B. Winfred Ruffner, Jr., M.D. upon his recent election as the 156th president of the Tennessee Medical Association.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to recognize those outstanding Tennesseans whose positive impact upon their communities and this State is both inspiring and widespread; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Dr. B. Winfred Ruffner, Jr., who was recently elected to serve as the 156th president of the Tennessee Medical Association (TMA); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ruffner began his term as president-elect on April 5, 2009, serving on the TMA Board of Trustees; he will take office in April of 2010; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1830, the Tennessee Medical Association is a professional organization for medical doctors and doctors of osteopathy dedicated to protect the health care interests of patients and to enhance the effectiveness of physicians throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, Dr. B. Winfred Ruffner, Jr., a man of extensive medical expertise with a long history of providing compassionate care, was born on March 5, 1939, in Rockwood, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, an assiduous scholar, he attended public schools in Arlington, Virginia and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Chemistry from Duke University and an M.D. from the Duke University School of Medicine, from which he graduated in 1964; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ruffner held a Straight Medical Internship at the Duke University Medical Center from 1964 to 1965 before becoming an Assistant Resident in Internal Medicine at the same medical facility until 1966; and

WHEREAS, from 1966-1968, Dr. Ruffner worked as a Research Associate in the Laboratory of Biochemistry at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland; during the next two years he served as a Staff Associate and Staff Fellow in the Laboratory of Biochemical Genetics for the National Heart Institute at the National Institutes of Health; and

WHEREAS, during this period he also served as a Commissioned Officer of the United States Public Health Service from July of 1966 until July of 1969; and

WHEREAS, throughout his extraordinary medical career, Dr. Ruffner has held positions at numerous hospitals and universities, working in the medical field and educating others to do the same; and

WHEREAS, from September of 1970 until June of 1976, he stood as Chief of the Division of Medical Oncology at the University of Virginia Hospital; during this same time period, he also served as an attending physician at the University of Virginia Hospital; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, Dr. Ruffner became an attending physician at Erlanger and Memorial Hospitals in Chattanooga, and he continues in that capacity today; and

WHEREAS, a widely respected figure in academia, Dr. B. Winfred Ruffner, Jr., served the University of Virginia Medical School as Assistant Professor of Medicine from 1970 to 1976; and

WHEREAS, he has devoted much of his time to the Chattanooga Unit of the University of Tennessee College of Medicine, at which institution he has held the esteemed positions of Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine, Associate Professor of Medicine, Acting Chairman of the Department of Medicine, Chairman of University of Tennessee Physicians, Assistant Dean and Interim Dean of the Chattanooga Unit, Designated Institutional Officer, Chair of the Graduate Medical Education Committee, and Chair of the Institutional Review Board; and

WHEREAS, he continues to serve as an Associate Professor of Medicine and Chair of the Institutional Review Board in Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, a man of countless abilities, Dr. Ruffner operated his own private practice in Charlottesville, Virginia, from July of 1970 until August of 1976, and in Chattanooga, from August of 1976 until October of 1997; and

WHEREAS, he has lent his valuable expertise to several committees and leadership positions, including standing as a Chairman of the Medical Information Committee, member of the Managed Care Committee, member of the Assured Care Board of Directors, medical director of Assured Care of Chattanooga, trustee of the TMA, member of the TMA's TennCare Stakeholder Group, member of the Governor's Safety Net Study Commission, member of the Selection Panel for TennCare Reviewers, and an alternate delegate for the American Medical Association; and

WHEREAS, an advocate for effective healthcare policies, Dr. Ruffner has given his time to a variety of healthcare policy activities, including service as a reviewer for the Veterans Administration External Peer Review Program, an invited reviewer of the Cancer Pain Guideline through the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, an invited reviewer of *Use of Colony Stimulating Factors*, from the American Society of Clinical Oncology, as well as providing research and guidance to the American Neurological Association through the Internal Medicine Center to Advanced Research and Education in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ruffner has published numerous articles in scholarly medical journals, including *Cancer*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Scientists*, *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, *Virginia Medical Monthly*, *Cancer Research*, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *Experimental Cell Research*, *Annals of Surgery*, *Archives of Internal Medicine*, *Journal of Rheumatology*, *Diseases of the Colon and Rectum*, and *Tennessee Medicine*; and

WHEREAS, as president of the Tennessee Medical Association, Dr. Ruffner has set forth a specific set of goals toward which he will strive; in his election statement to TMA members he detailed these goals, saying, "I believe our top priorities in Tennessee should be fighting to reduce insurance company hassles, strengthening care in smaller communities, making primary care attractive again, and fighting for tort reform"; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his outstanding contributions to the medical and academic fields, Dr. B. Winfred Ruffner, Jr., finds the time and energy to devote to leadership roles in a number of worthy community organizations; and

WHEREAS, he has served as Secretary of the Rotary Club of Chattanooga, Trustee and Treasurer of the American Schools of Oriental Research, President of the Chattanooga

Symphony and Opera Association, and Treasurer and President of the Chattanooga Area Clinical Pastoral Care Association; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to recognition and awards, Dr. Ruffner has been honored with the North Carolina Medical Society Award for Clinical Research; was inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society; honored as a Diplomate from the American Board of Medical Examiners in 1965, the American Board of Internal Medicine in 1972, and the Subspecialty Board of Medical Oncology in 1973; and he was honored as a Fellow of the American College of Physicians in 1976; and

WHEREAS, accolades and accomplishments aside, Dr. Ruffner is thankful for the loving companionship of his wife, Rhonda M. Ruffner, and he is the proud father of Katherine, Andrew, and Elizabeth; and

WHEREAS, Dr. B. Winfred Ruffner, Jr., is an extraordinary individual who gives selflessly to ensure the best quality health care for the citizens of this great State and he should be specially honored and congratulated for his life's work; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize and commend Dr. B. Winfred Ruffner, Jr., for his meritorious service to the citizens of Tennessee, congratulate him on his recent election as the 156th President of the Tennessee Medical Association, and offer our best wishes for his continued success and happiness in every future endeavor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.